

**TREPSICHOIS HÜBNER, 1816 (INSECTA, LEPIDOPTERA):
REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE
PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1897**

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This application seeks to clarify and stabilise the status of the genus *Trepsichrois* Hübner, 1816 (*Verz. bekannt. Schmett.* (1) : 16).

2. Hübner's five species originally included in the genus (with his cited synonyms in parentheses) were:

- 90) *T. basilissa* Cramer, [1780], 266 C (*midamus* Sulzer, *Ins.* 4. 6 [1776] *claudius* Fabricius, *Mant.* [*Ins.* 2 : p. 25, no.] 261 [1787])
- 91) *T. mulcibra* [Hübner, emend.] (*mulciber* Cramer [1777], 127 C)
- 92) *T. midamis* [Hübner, 1814, *Samml. exot. Schmett.* 1 : pl. 24] (*midamus* Linnaeus [1758])
- 93) *T. alea* [Hübner, nom. nov.] (*midamus* Cramer [1780], 266 A, B)
- 94) *T. eleusina* Cramer [1780], 266 D.

The Cramer references [here dated in accordance with Opinion 516] are to the plate numbers and lettered figures of his *Uitlandsche Kapellen* 2, 3. The Fabricius name and reference are accurately given. All the species named other than Hübner's were described in the genus *Papilio*. *P. midamus* Linnaeus covered two species in the illustrations cited by Linnaeus; *midamus* proper (of which *P. superbus* Herbst, 1793 is currently regarded as a junior subjective synonym, see below), and *P. mulciber* Cramer. Thus, disregarding junior homonyms and Hübner's capricious emendations, the synonymy may be simplified to read:

- 90) *P. basilissa* Cramer, 1780 (*P. claudius* Fabricius, 1787)
- 91) *P. mulciber* Cramer, 1777
- 92a) *P. mulciber* Cramer, 1777
 - b) *P. midamus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*P. superbus* Herbst, 1793)
- 93) *T. alea* Hübner, 1816
- 94) *P. eleusina* Cramer, 1780.

Of these, numbers 90, 91 (and 92a) are, and have been for over 80 years, referred to *Trepsichrois* Hübner, to the exclusion of *P. midamus* Linnaeus and the other two.

3. Before discussing type-selections it should be mentioned that Kirby, 1871 (*Syn. Catal. diurn. Lep.* (1) : 9-15) disposed these taxa in the genus *Euploea* Fabricius *sens. lat.* as follows:

- 1) *E. alea* Hübner (*midamus* Cramer *nec* Linnaeus)
- 9) *E. superba* Herbst (*midamis* Hübner)
- 73) *E. eleusina* Cramer

- 99) *E. midamus* Linnaeus (*mulciber* Cramer, "*claudia*¹ Fabricius, *Gen. Ins.* : 263 (1777)", *basilissa* Cramer).

Thus Kirby synonymized Hübner's species 90, 91, and 92a in his own number 99, preceded by the other three more or less correctly.

4. Scudder, 1875 (*Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts. Sci.* 10 : 286) was the first author to designate a type-species for the genus *Trepsichrois* Hübner. Basing his synonymy on Kirby, 1871 (paragraph 3 above), and denoting his designation by boldface type, he listed the included species as:

midamus (*basilissa*, *mulcibra*, *midamis*)
alea [spelt "alca"]
eleusina

concluding with the confirmatory note "*midamus* may be taken as the type". In my opinion this constitutes a valid designation of *Papilio midamus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 470) as type-species, having regard to Article 69(a) (iii) ("for whatever reason, right or wrong"). It cannot be regarded as a case of misidentification of type-species, as although more than one is included in synonymy there is nothing to indicate that Scudder intended other than his definite nomination to stand. If this opinion is correct, it is most regrettable in view of the last sentence of paragraph 2 above.

5. Hemming took a contrary view in 1934 (*Gen. Names Holarctic Butt.* : 25), when it was tenable under the *Règles*, and repeated it in 1967 (*Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist.* (Ent.), Suppl. : 447), when he said that Scudder's selection subjectively synonymized more than one of the nominal species included by Hübner, infringing Article 69 (a) (iv) of the *Code*. But that Article only applies when a designated nominal species was not originally included and included species are cited as synonyms. Here, *midamus*, an included species, was designated.

6. Hemming then added that Moore, 1883 (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1883 : 286) was the next author to act. He designated simply "*T. claudia*". As we have seen, this was anomalous. But later on the same page he gave the synonymy of his species number 2 as:

Trepsichrois claudia (*P. claudius* Fab., *Gen. Ins.* : 263 (1777); *Mant. Ins.* 2 : 25 (1787); *Ent. Syst.* 3 (1) : 40 (1793); *P. basilissa* Cramer, 1780; *P. midamus* Sulzer, 1776, *Ins.*, pl. 16, fig. 4; etc.

7. This designation was regarded by Hemming as the first valid one. References by Moore to "*claudia*" and to "Fabricius, 1777, *Gen. Ins.*" have to be read as *claudius*, and Fabricius, 1787, *Mant. Ins.* It is this concept of *Trepsichrois* Hübner, 1816, which has held ever since.

¹ It is necessary also at this point to say that *P. claudia* Fabricius, 1777, is a totally different insect from *P. claudius* Fabricius, 1787. It is not a dark brown oriental *Papilio Danaüs Festivus* at all, but a bright red [neotropical] *Papilio Nymphalis Gemmatus*, first described and figured by J. D. Schulze, 1776 (*Naturforscher* 9 : 100, pl. 2), who said in a footnote that Fabricius had visited him, seen the specimen, and would include it in his forthcoming work. Schulze (and consequently Fabricius) misplaced its habitat as "India". It is now the type-species of *Agrius* Doubleday. Fabricius, 1787, after describing *P. claudius* for the first time (*Mant. Ins.* 2 : 25, no. 261), referred back to *P. claudia* (*ibid.* : 45, no. 445) and mentioned Schulze. These are presumably Proper Names, and homonymy does not arise.

8. Bryk, 1937 (*Lepid. Cat.* 28 (78) : 326–334) dealt with *P. mulciber* Cramer, 1777 and treated (: 327) *P. claudius* Fabricius and (: 328) *P. basilissa* Cramer, “1782” [1780] both as subspecies thereof, listing them in the genus *Trepsichrois* Hübner (: 323), “Generotypus: *T. mulcibra* Hübner, 1816”, which, as we have seen, was an arbitrary emendation by Hübner for *mulciber* Cramer.

9. In my opinion, unless the International Commission exercise plenary powers, the type-species has to be *P. midamus* under the current Code (paragraph 4 above). This would be entirely contrary to universal practice over the last 80 years or more. It is essential, to ensure universality and conserve stability, that the powers be exercised; in which case it would be most advisable to designate as type-species one with a valid name.

10. I therefore respectfully request the International Commission:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type-species for the genus *Trepsichrois* Hübner, 1816, made prior to the ruling now requested and, having done so, to designate as the type-species of that genus the species *Papilio mulciber* Cramer [1777];
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the generic name *Trepsichrois* Hübner, 1816, *Verzeichniss bekannter Schmettlinge* (1) : 16 (gender: feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Papilio mulciber* Cramer [1777], *Uitlandsche Kapellen* 2 : 45, 150, pl. 127, figs. C, D;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the specific name *mulciber* Cramer [1777], as published in the binomen *Papilio mulciber* (type-species of *Trepsichrois* Hübner, 1816).